Framing of Rules and Regulations of PWB

2548. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rules and regulations of Punjab Wakf Board under the Wakf Act, 1995 have been framed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the same will be framed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL, JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The Punjab Wakf Board has constituted a Draft Committee consisting of Senior Officers of the Board for framing Rules and Regulations under the Wakf Act, 1995. The draft is in its final stage of preparation.

CPA for Senior Citizens

2549. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government intend to set up a Central Pension Authority to guarantee a more secure future to senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had commissioned, in August, 1998, a project OASIS (an acronym of Old Age Social & Income Security) to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India and submit its recommendations to the Government. The Committee, headed by Dr. S.A. Dave, former chairman of Unit Trust of India, submitted its final report to Government on 11-1-2000. The report contains recommendations on the schemes and action that Government may take to ensure that every young worker builds up enough

savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The recommendations contained in the report have a twin focus on further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for such workers who are not included in the present pension provisions but are capable of saving modest amounts and converting these savings into Old Age Income Security provision. The report has *inter-alia* recommended the constitution of a new Regulatory Agency namely "The Indian Pensions Authority (IPA)". The core function of IPA would be to oversee and supervise the functioning of the pension system, resolve problems and make incremental improvements on an ongoing basis.

(c) The issue of implementation of recommendation regarding establishment of proposed IPA would arise only after Government takes a final decision with regard to the recommendations made by the Committee.

Encouraging NGOs to Create Facilities for Disabled

2550. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to encourage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to create facilities for disabled and extend concessions like tax rebate to dedicated and proving organizations in order to create a disability-friendly society;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have proposed any additional concessions for disabled in the budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Financial assistance is provided to eligible Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disability and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances. These schemes do not envisage any tax concession. However, concessions in respect of Income Tax, Central Excise and Customs duty have been provided to individuals and institutions working in the field of disabled welfare under the relevant Acts which continue to stand extended in the current budget proposals (as per statement *see* below).